

ARGUMENTATIVE RESEARCH PAPER ASSESSMENTFocus/Content

- 15 Claim (thesis) is clearly stated and consistently maintained. Original debatable topic with supporting details and counter-arguments/opposing viewpoints; ideas are thoughtful, in-depth analysis. Compelling evidence from at least 4 legitimate, credible sources. At least 8 to 10 citations are incorporated into the paper (no isolated quotes).
- 13-12 Paragraphs support the thesis. Ideas are clear and easy to follow, but sometimes digress. Information is reasonable and provides basic analysis of topic; makes a decent attempt at counter-argument(s)/opposing viewpoints. Six to 7 citations from 3 legitimate sources incorporated into the paper (no isolated quotes).
- 11-10 Central idea (thesis) is not consistently clear throughout the paper. Three to 5 citations incorporated into the paper (there is one isolated quote). Ideas are sometimes repetitious and limited. Most of the sources are legitimate, or have only incorporated 2. Weak attempt at counter-arguments/opposing viewpoints.
- 9-8.5 Central idea (thesis) is unclear. Paragraphs do not support the thesis; random ideas. No research is incorporated into the paper OR the research contains mostly isolated quotes. Analysis is vague or not evident. No counter-arguments/opposing viewpoints. Few of the sources are legitimate.

Organization

- 10 Paragraphs flow smoothly and are arranged logically from one idea to the next; thoughtful transitions between ideas and paragraphs to connect supporting and counter-arguments. Paragraphs have a topic sentence and include evidence and reasoning. Introduction creates interest and moves from general to specific. Conclusion draws ideas together and moves from specific to general.
- 9 Paragraphs flow logically from one idea to the next; usually clearly linked to each other. Main points usually support topic sentence and thesis. Introduction and conclusion are evident but not solid/effective.
- 8 Writing arranged logically, although occasionally ideas fails to make sense together. Paragraphs contain a poorly developed topic sentence and supporting details. Paragraphs have some transitions. Introduction and conclusion are limited and weak.
- 7 Paragraphs are confusing or difficult to follow. Lack of structure. Introduction and conclusion are missing.

Word Choice

- 5 Contains articulate, exceptional supportive details. Standard formal English is used. Sophisticated vocabulary is used correctly.
- 4 Contains clear supportive details. Standard formal English is used. Challenging vocabulary is used correctly.
- 3 Includes trite, ordinary details, familiar words and phrases. Colorful language may be overdone or not the writer's words.
- 2 Lacks sufficient supporting details, paper is redundant, and/or words are used incorrectly or are vague

Voice

- 5 Distinctive and compelling voice that is convincing, individualistic and engaging. Speaks knowledgeably.
- 4 Emerging, natural voice. Tone enhances argument, but there are inconsistencies.
- 3 Sincere voice but has little power of argument/convincing.
- 2 Lack of feeling or attitude. Tone inappropriate to purpose. The paper is lifeless and does not reach or involve the audience

Sentence Structure

- 5 Well-constructed sentences with variety in length, sentence structure and beginnings. NO run-ons or fragments.
- 4 Variety in sentence structure. Sentences work together with some variation in length and structure. Beginnings are not all alike. Few run-ons and/or fragments.
- 3 Mostly simple and compound sentences with generally short sentences. Several run-ons and/or fragments.
- 2 Little attention to proper sentence structure. Most sentences begin the same way. Many run-ons and/or fragments.

Mechanics

- 10 Paper is error free. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are correct. Present tense verbs are used correctly. Third person is used throughout. No contractions.
- 9 Paper is generally free of mechanical errors. Most grammar & usage are correct, punctuation is usually accurate, & only minor corrections are needed. Verb tenses are used correctly. Third person is used in the majority of the paper. Few contractions.
- 8 Some mechanical errors that do not detract from content. End punctuation & spelling usually correct. Most verbs tenses are used correctly. Switches between first/second and third person often. Many contractions.
- 7 Paper contains mechanical errors that detract from content.

Formatting & Requirements

- 10 Paper is 4-5 pages (Works Cited page is separate), Times New Roman, 12 point, double spaced. Proper MLA header, heading, in-text citations, and Works Cited page.

TEACHER COMMENTS: